

REMARKS

Claims 8-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 10-11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claims 8-9 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 4,696,764); and rejects claims 1-6 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shuzo (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 04-043504). The rejections as they pertain to canceled claims 1-6 and 10-11 are now moot.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicant submits that claims 8-9 contain allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 8-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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